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AUTHOR	Biagi, Kathy
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ABSTRACT

This pamphlet describes the current services of the Nevada Head Start program. Information is provided on program eligibility requirements, the number of children and families served during the 2001-2002 program year, the counties served by Head Start programs, health services provided, demographic characteristics of families served by Head Start, as well as the following statistics on Head Start and Early Head Start in Nevada: program characteristics, student characteristics, primary languages in the home of families served, health insurance, medical care, immunizations, dental care, and ethnicity. Also presented is information on the short- and long-term benefits of attending Head Start drawn from a national population. Parents' comments on the program and contact information for Head Start programs in the state complete the pamphlet. (KB)

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Nevada Head Start 2002.

Kathy Biagi

Nevada Head Start-State Collaboration Project.
Nevada Head Start Association.

April 2003

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Kathy Biagi

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

Nevada Head Start 2002

2,951 Nevada children and their families were served through the Head Start/Early Head Start 2001-2002 program year. This figure represents only 23% of Nevada's income-eligible children! It is mandated that at least 10% of the enrollment of each Head Start program include children with special needs.

Enrollment in Head Start is based on total family income being at or below the Federal poverty level. For example, to qualify for Head Start, a family of four can earn a maximum of $18,400 annually. 89% of all Head Start families are employed and/or attending school or job training.

Currently, there are Head Start programs serving ten Nevada Counties: Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Humboldt, Lyon, Pershing, Storey, Washoe, and White Pine. Seven counties are not being served by Head Start: Carson City, Esmerelda, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, and Nye.

AN EQUATION FOR SUCCESS

Education + Health + Family + Community Services = Nevada Children Ready to Learn

Head Start has always embraced change to provide the highest quality programming. The government's own report states that Head Start graduates enter kindergarten "ready to learn." Head Start has long recognized that programs must do well in all domains of early childhood development, which include: Language Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Creative Arts, Social and Emotional Development, Approaches to Learning, and Physical Health and Environment.

Head Start continues to be the nation's premiere model in building children, families, and community.

PS 032345

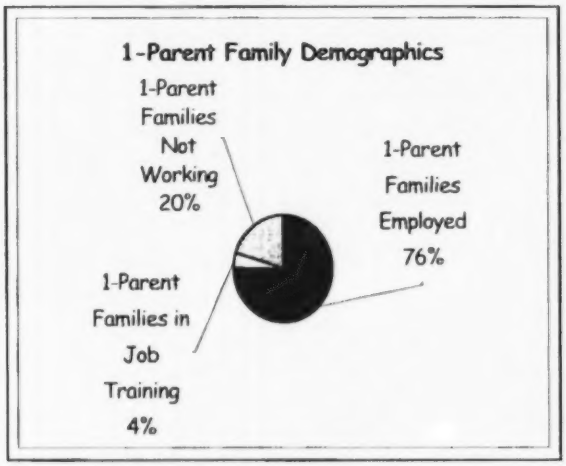
Health Services

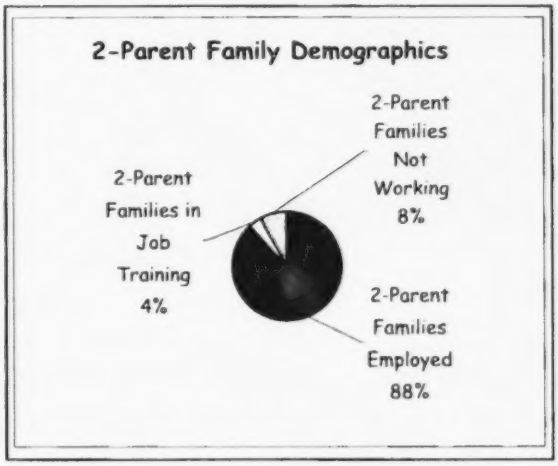
Children cannot succeed in school if they are in need of dental or other health care. Head Start data tracks access to health services for its children in several areas. At the end of the 2002 program year, data for Nevada's Head Start children indicated that access to:

- health insurance increased by 37% from the beginning of the program year.
- medical homes increased by 149% from the beginning of the program year.
- dental homes increased by 183% from the beginning of the program year.

In a comparison between Head Start and the State of Nevada statistics, the data indicates:

- General population of children in Nevada with health insurance is 22%. In Head Start, 70% of its children have health insurance by the end of the program year.
- General population of children in Nevada who are up-to-date on immunizations is 73%. In Head Start, 98% of its children are current on immunizations by the end of the year.


1-Parent Family Demographics
1-Parent Families Not Working 20%
1-Parent Families Employed 76%
1-Parent Families in Job Training 4%


2-Parent Family Demographics
2-Parent Families Not Working 8%
2-Parent Families in Job Training 4%
2-Parent Families Employed 88%

Short and Long Term Benefits

- In a study (Lee, Brooks-Gunn, Schnur, and Liaw, 1990) comparing matched groups of low-income children attending Head Start with children attending another or no other pre-school, the Head Start children scored higher on such school readiness measures as verbal achievement, perceptual reasoning, and social competence.
- Head Start has immediate positive effects on children's socioeconomic development, including self-esteem, achievement motivation, and social behavior. By the end of the year, Head Start children scored higher in all three categories than their non-Head Start peers.
- At-risk children not afforded the opportunity to participate in a quality early childhood program are five times more likely to be arrested repeatedly by age 27.

2002 Head Start & Early Head Start in Nevada

Program Figures	
Funded Enrollment	2500
Actual Served	2951
Total # of Centers	49
Total Staff	548
Staff previously HS Parents	173
Total Program Volunteers	5136
Children with:	
IEP's (Special Needs Population)	330
2-parent families	1399
1-parent families	1395
# of Homeless Families	79
# of Homeless Families acquiring Housing while in Head Start	34
Primary Languages in the Home:	
English	1937
Spanish	986
Mid Eastern	11
Far Eastern	4
Pacific Islander	2
Other	1

Children with:	
Health Insurance at enrollment	1646
Health Insurance at end of year	2255
Regular Medical Care at enrollment	1061
Regular Medical Care at end of year	2645
Up-to-date Health Exams	2706
Children:	
Needing Medical Treatment	672
Receiving Medical Treatment	597
Immunizations up-to-date at enrollment	2405
Immunizations up-to-date end of year	2886
Regular Dental Care at enrollment	888
Regular Dental Care at end of year	2511
Ethnicity:	
Hispanic or Latino	1326
White	545
Black/African American	417
Native American	303
Multi-Racial	272
Asian	67
Pacific Islander	11

What Parents Have to Say:

"My goals were impossible. Forget college... Where would I have found quality childcare I could afford? The Early Head Start program gave me that opportunity. Every step of the way, Early Head Start has supported me. When I have a question about nutrition or discipline or safety or healthcare or any of the millions of other things that new parents wonder about, there's someone knowledgeable to answer it. I am consistently amazed at the new things he's learning. Not just cognitive or language development; he's learning how to interact with adults and other children. Even when our home has not been stable, I know his classroom has. Because this program exists, I've been able to pursue my degree... The dreams that were impossible when I first learned I was pregnant are now attainable. Early Head Start gives so many families like mine the ability to find self-sufficiency through education. My only wish is that more families could be served. Imagine what would happen if every impoverished child had a head start." EHS Parent, April, 2002

"It was primarily Early Head Start (EHS) that helped me get back on my own two feet after difficult life circumstances...thank you so much for having faith in me. EHS is a lot more than free childcare, it is about helping the family as a whole reach their potential and make their dreams a reality." EHS Parent, December 2002

Nevada Head Start Makes a Difference

Nevada Head Start Programs are located in three unique and distinct geographic areas throughout the state: urban, rural, and frontier communities, ranging in population from 80 to 1,343,540 (total state population of 2,173,491) and encompassing 110,540 square miles. Five of the grantees in the state are regionally based, while three are tribal. Head Start, a federally-funded Health and Human Services program, brought $20,987,340 into the State of Nevada in 2002 to provide program services for low-income children and their families.

Nevada Head Start...coming together to serve families.

- Community Services Agency Head Start
  Reno, Nevada 775-786-6023
  Sherri Rice, Director
- Economic Opportunity Board
  Early Head Start/Head Start
  Las Vegas, Nevada 702-387-0179
  Diana Goff, Director
- Head Start of Northeastern Nevada
  Elko, Nevada 775-738-5953
  Joan Anderson, Director
- Inter-Tribal Council Head Start
  Sparks, Nevada 775-355-0600
  Jeanette Allen, Director
- Little People's Head Start
  Ely, Nevada 775-289-6113
  Mary Eldridge, Director
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
  Reno, Nevada 775-789-5615
  Elaine Bender, Director
- University of Nevada, Reno – Early Head Start
  Reno, Nevada 775-784-6762
  Sherry Waugh, Director
- Washoe Tribe Head Start
  Gardnerville, NV 775-265-4191
  Dorothy Mc Cloud, Director

Head Start-State Collaboration Project
Kathy Biagi - Director
3987 South McCarran Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89502
775-688-2284, ext 256
775-688-2558 fax
kabiagi@dcfs.state.nv.us
www.nvcommunityconnections.com

Nevada Head Start Association
Jane Hogue - Chairperson
University of Nevada, Reno
Mail Stop 392
Reno, Nevada 89557
775-327-5100
775-784-4916 fax
jhogue@unr.edu

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Signature: Kathy Biagi	Printed Name/Position/Title: Kathy Biagi - Director
Organization/Address: Nevada Head Start - State Collaboration Office	Telephone: (775) 448-5254 FAX: (775) 448-5251
	E-Mail Address: kbiagi@welfare.state.nv.us Date: 5/29/03

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